

**Clan Henderson Society**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**November 2, 2024**  
**Charleston Scottish Games – Charleston, SC**

Quorum was verified and the meeting was called to order at 1:00pm EDT

Joining us via ZOOM Alistair D. Henderson of Fordell, Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson.

Members present at the meeting were: President Louis Russell, Vice President – Operations Mark Henderson, Vice President - General Counsel Vincent Henderson II, Vice President – Members, Suzanne Emerson, High Commissioner and Chieftain, David R. Henderson, Regional Commissioner Mary Lane Henderson, Regional Commissioner Mike Pollini, Kent Owens, Tom Henderson, Dan & Judy Henderson, Sandi Henderson, Rick & Fran Kalk, Sherry Henderson, Jeff Emerson, Fred & Peggy Sanford, Erin Henderson, Paul Dearing, Troy Pardeu, Diane Langston, Jan Burdette, Tom Henderson, Kyle Henderson, Christina Henderson, Ed Hendricks, Kari Henderson, Cory & Tonja Nickles, Kevin & Kim Smith, Graeme Dodsworth. Members attending via ZOOM Secretary Sue Hoffman, Regional Commissioner Christian Henderson, L. Tyler Henderson, Pam Hannan, Tim Linder, Greg Lamberson, Dale & Laura German, Kenneth Henderson, Lawrence Henderson, Mike Henderson, Eric Erickson.

President Louis requested a motion to suspend reading of the 2023 AGM minutes and accept as presented. The motion was made Mark Henderson and seconded by Vincent Henderson motion carried unanimously.

President Louis asked David R. Henderson to introduce the Chief. Chief Alistair expressed his delight to join everyone and brought greetings and well wishes from Dowager Madame Gwen Henderson, and Madame Audrey, both are doing well. The Chief thanked the officers and members for their hard work and efforts on behalf of the Society and urged all in the continuing work of gathering the clan wherever its members may be found. He is looking forward to joining with the clan and attending the 2025 AGM.

President Louis reported to the members highlights of the past year activities. Member renewal has been upgraded to allow members to select an autorenewal of annual dues, making it easier for members to maintain their active status.

Louis touched on the status of the improvements to the Henderson Stone access, the gate had been damaged and the access is in need of upgrades; a new gate, fence and improved walking path. Alan Henderson, RC Scotland, is in contact with the Outdoor Access Officer, property owner, and crofters. Discussions are underway to approve the improvements. The Society will be searching for funding the project, donations and grants.

He shared the results from a survey of Society members that had allowed their membership status to become passive. Reasons for the lapse ranged from personal, health, and financial. Many that joined for Henderson history and genealogy. After completing their family history search or because of a roadblock in their search they allowed the membership to lapse.

President Louis called on Mark for the Vice President Operations report.

Mark stated there are two areas of interest, Budget and Communications. A dedicated communications schedule was not adhered to, technical problems existed on too many occasions and several one-on-one conferences were not effective. I rate my 2024 efforts as a "D+". In 2024 budget management was successful as we are operating in the black. Awards in 2024; There were five members who received an upgrade of their induction into the Order of the Chief, with the addition of being awarded "With Distinction". Awardees received a blue and yellow ribbon for their medals. There were also five members who were inducted into the Orders of the Chief. They received a medal with a green ribbon. Members of the Order of MacEanruig act as "Ambassadors for the Society" The membership is capped at an annual active member total equal to the number of years since the creation of Clan Henderson Society. In 2024 that number is 36. The CHS President's annual selection for the Chief's Prize is automatically inducted into the Order.

President Louis asked Suzanne for the Vice President Members report.

Suzanne reported

- 817 current active members of the Clan Henderson Society.
- 30% of our members live in the South East Region (FL, GA, NC, SC).
- 96 new members have joined between September 2023 and August 2024.
  - This year most membership applications have been submitted electronically through our website.
- 46% of members who went passive in the last year were only members for one year.

The auto-renewal membership option went live 12/31/2023.

- Opportunities and Challenges
- Continued declining membership overall
- Automated renewal
  - May increase retention of first-year members
  - May irritate members who didn't realize they were signing up for it.
- Trifold needs redesign

President called on Vincent for the Vice President and General Counsel report.

Vincent advised that over the past year, there have been several legal matters he had addressed or advised the Executive Committee, Executive Board or Society officers. A recurring matter concerned the required conflict of interest statements. He has secured a copy of the IRS Form 1023, this form to be included with the conflict of statements annual emailing. The second matter was the review of investment policies. The third matter concerned the decision to create a Society endowment fund for scholarship purposes. The fourth matter, while not directly related to his office, concerns his attendance of the 2023 Scottish North American Community Conference held during last year's Olde Alexandria Christmas Walk.

2025 Action Items

- Conflicts of interest statement review and approval
- Policies and rules for the operation and monitoring of Society Committees
- Organization of the Fordell Foundation

Carol Fosser, the treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting, so President Louis gave a brief review of the finances to date.

President Louis asked the Secretary if she had any additional comments

Sue reiterated the importance of submitting the Conflict of Interest promptly for the Executive Board to review in a timely manner, and that this was an annual requirement of the IRS.

*All written report received are posted to the Clan Henderson website and filed with the Society's permanent records.*

Next items on the agenda were the Scholarship Fund and the investment policy, but prior to these discussions, President Louis wanted the attending members to view the video produced by Audrey Trawick, former many times scholarship recipient, CHS Youth Activities Director and Chair of the Scholarship awards committee. This video demonstrates the importance of and benefits to the Scholarship awardees.

After the video, Louis asked Graeme Dodworth, CHS piper to discuss his idea of a competition open to pipers and/or pipe bands to create a Henderson song. This could be performed at an event and a winning entry chosen, with some sort of grant for the piper or band.

Louis said these were examples of the importance and possible uses of the Scholarship Fund.

Louis gave overview of the Investment policy.

- To provide for the creation of and guidelines for the management of the various funds held by the Society.
- Purpose of the Fund
- Investment Objectives
- Investment Guidelines
- Reporting requirements

Louis asked for a motion to accept this policy, Mark Henderson so moved, Peggy Sanford seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers, Louis called on Peggy Sanford, the chair of the nomination committee for the Slate of officers;

President	Louis Russell
VP-Operations	Mark Henderson
VP-Members	Suzanne Emerson
VP and General Counsel	Vincent Henderson II
VP Genealogy/DNA	Greg Lamberson
Treasurer	Carol Fosser
Recording Secretary	Sue Hoffman

Peggy stated the nominee for VP Genealogy/DNA was added to the slate as requested by the Board. Mark Henderson spoke of the qualifications of Greg Lamberson, Greg has over 40 years' experience, has worked closely with the CHS genealogy team.

Having no additional nominations from the floor, Louis requested a motion to accept the slate as presented. Mark Henderson so moved, Kari Henderson seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

The 2024 Chief's Prize was awarded to Linda Hendricks, long-time member of the CHS and for most of that time has been the Regional Commissioner of the Far South Region.

Dan Henderson, CHS Chaplain introduced Tom Henderson as the newest member of the CHS Chaplain Corps in the South East Region.

Mike Pollini was inducted as the Regional Commissioner of the North East Region by High Commissioner and Chieftain David R. Henderson

Louis expressed his thanks and appreciation to Mary Lane Henderson and her crew for their work and hard work hosting the 2024 Clan Henderson Society Annual General Meeting.

Louis called for a motion to adjourn, Vincent Henderson so moved, Kari Henderson seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm EDT

*Original Signed*

Louis Russell  
President

*Original Signed*

Sue Hoffman  
Secretary